

REMARKS

At the outset, the Examiner is thanked for the thorough review and consideration of the pending application. The Office Action dated October 21, 2009, has been received and its contents carefully reviewed.

Claims 18-35 are withdrawn from consideration in this application. Claims 12-17 are rejected to by the Examiner. Claims 12, 14 and 16 have been amended. Claims 12-35 remain pending in this application.

In the Office Action, claims 12-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,279,035 to Skerlos (hereinafter “Skerlos”) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,713,040 to Lee (hereinafter “Lee”) and a computer-generated English translation of Japanese Patent Pub. No. 07-086893 A to Kida (hereinafter “Kida”).

The rejection of claims 12-17 is respectfully traversed and reconsideration is requested. Claim 12 is allowable over the cited references in that each of these claims recites a combination of elements including, for example, “outputting a signal of a first state to a signal presence comparator only if the first period is less than the first reference period; outputting the signal of the first state to a signal absence comparator only if the first period is beyond a range of the first reference period; determining the presence of the input signal if the number of pulses of the signal of the first state outputted to the signal presence comparator is larger than a predetermined plural number during an input interval of the detection reference signal, being different from the signal of the first state, wherein each of the pulses is to be of the first state and continuously has same values; and determining the absence of the input signal if the number of pulses of the signal of the first state outputted to the signal absence comparator is smaller than a predetermined plural number during an input interval of the detection reference signal, being different from the signal of the first state, wherein each of the pulses is to be of the first state and continuously has same values.” Claim 14 is allowable over the cited references in that each of these claims recites a combination of elements including, for example, “outputting a signal of a first state to a signal presence comparator only if the first period is greater than the first reference period; outputting the signal of the first state to a signal absence comparator only if the first period is beyond a range of the first reference period; determining the presence of the input signal if the number of pulses of the signal of the first state outputted to the signal presence

comparator is larger than a predetermined plural number during an input interval of the detection reference signal, being different from the signal of the first state, wherein each of the pulses is to be of the first state and continuously has same values; and determining the absence of the input signal if the number of pulses of the signal of the first state outputted to the signal absence comparator is smaller than a predetermined plural number during an input interval of the detection reference signal, being different from the signal of the first state, wherein each of the pulses is to be of the first state and continuously has same values.”

Claim 16 is allowable over the cited references in that each of these claims recites a combination of elements including, for example, “outputting a signal of a first state to a signal presence comparator only if the first period is less than the first reference period and greater than the second reference period; outputting the signal of the first state to a signal absence comparator only if the first period is beyond a range of the first reference period; determining the presence of the input signal if the number of pulses of the signal of the first state outputted to the signal presence comparator is larger than a predetermined plural number during an input interval of the detection reference signal, being different from the signal of the first state, wherein each of the pulses is to be of the first state and continuously has same values; and determining the absence of the input signal if the number of pulses of the signal of the first state outputted to the signal absence comparator is smaller than a predetermined plural number during an input interval of the detection reference signal, being different from the signal of the first state, wherein each of the pulses is to be of the first state and continuously has same values.”

In the present invention, **the output signal COM within a range set** at the period comparator 56 is a first input terminal COM of the **signal presence comparator 58**, and the **output signal COM beyond a range set** at the period comparator 56 is a first input terminal COM of the **signal absence comparator 60**. Therefore, the signal presence comparator 58 determines to be a presence signal DET when the number of continuous pulses of the output signal COM during an input interval of the detection reference signal Refvsync is larger than a set P value, and the signal absence comparator 60 determines to be a absence signal DET when the number of continuous pulses of the output signal COM during an input interval of the detection reference signal Refvsync is smaller than a set P value.

None of Skerlos, Lee and Kida teach or suggest at least this feature of the claimed invention. Accordingly, claims 12-17 are allowable over Skerlos, Lee and Kida.

Applicants believe the application is in condition for allowance and early, favorable action is respectfully solicited.

If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at (202) 496-7500 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance. All correspondence should continue to be sent to the below-listed address.

If these papers are not considered timely filed by the Patent and Trademark Office, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. §1.136, and any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 for any necessary extension of time, or any other fees required to complete the filing of this response, may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0911. Please credit any overpayment to deposit Account No. 50-0911.

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Respectfully submitted,

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